

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 15, 2008. Claims 1 to 5 and 11 to 22 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 16, 21 and 22 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 11 to 13, 15 and 21 to 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,535,294 (Arledge) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,089,765 (Mori). Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under § 103(a) over Arledge and Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,438,433 (Reifman). Claims 16 to 20 and 22 are rejected under § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (Taniguchi) in view of Arledge. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, and 22.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printer controller for controlling printing of print data. The printer controller includes storage adapted to store print data and authentication information corresponding to print data; an authentication unit adapted to authenticate a user based on authentication information manually input by a user; a control unit adapted to enable the printer controller to print, based on user instruction, stored print data corresponding to the authentication information once the user is authenticated by the authentication unit; and a deletion unit adapted to delete the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time.

Therefore, an apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 includes the features of:

- (1) an authentication unit adapted to authenticate a user based on authentication information manually input by a user, and
- (2) a control unit adapted to enable said printer controller to print, based on a user instruction, the stored print data corresponding to the authentication information once the user is authenticated by said authentication unit, and
- (3) a deletion unit adapted to delete the print data from said storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time.

Accordingly, when using this printer system print data will be deleted at a user-specified predetermined time, but only if the user-specified period of time has also elapsed. The predetermined time for deletion is set independently from the user-specified period of time. Thus, the user has the advantage of effectively deleting expired print data as a group during a time when the printer controller is not normally used, improving efficiency of the overall system. By allowing for two user-specified variable times (one absolute point in time and one duration of time) with regard to the deletion of data, thereby creating two conditions which must be satisfied before data is deleted, the user is awarded greater flexibility as well as a decrease in the level of risk of inadvertent loss of data.

In contrast, Mori discloses a computer system that receives from the user a delete time for stored print data, then automatically deletes this stored print data once the delete time is reached. In Mori, this delete time is set by prescribing the amount of time elapsed after the storage of print data. Therefore, Mori merely discloses automatic deletion

of print data once a specific period of time passes after storage. Specifically, Mori does not disclose a feature of the predetermined time being set independently of the specific period of time. Accordingly, Mori does not disclose or suggest the two-part conditional deletion feature of the present invention, namely the feature of a deletion unit adapted to delete the print data from said storage at a predetermined time manually set by a user if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time. In particular, Mori does not disclose that a second user-specified predetermined time constraint must be satisfied before print data is deleted, thereby leaving open the possibility of data deletion during heavy use times of the printer controller since time to data deletion is dependent only upon an interval in time rather than being dependent upon an interval in combination with an absolute point in time. This allows for a less efficient system and a lower level of user control than that embodied within the present invention.

In addition, Arledge, Jr. does not disclose or suggest a specific condition for deleting print data at a certain set time. Accordingly, Arledge, Jr. does not disclose or suggest a deletion unit adapted to delete the print data from said storage at a predetermined time manually set by a user if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time.

Furthermore, Reifman does not disclose or suggest a specific condition for deleting print data at a certain set time. Accordingly, Reifman does not disclose or suggest a deletion unit adapted to delete the print data from said storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was

stored in said storage, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time.

Finally, Taniguchi discloses that a print job is stored in the memory of a computer and print data is transmitted to a printer when print execution of the print job is instructed from the printer. In Taniguchi, a user sets a “job effective time” with respect to the print job stored in the memory of the computer, and the computer deletes the print job from memory once the “job effective time” has elapsed. Thus, Taniguchi merely discloses that a print job is deleted according to an elapse of time designated by the user, but does not disclose or suggest deleting the print data from said storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time.

None of the references cited disclose or suggest the two-part conditional deletion feature of the present invention. Also, even if these references are properly combined, such a combination cannot derive the feature of deleting the print data from said storage at a predetermined time manually set by a user if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited references, namely Arledge, Mori, Reifman and Taniguchi, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 1. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest that print data is not deleted if it does not satisfy both user-specified conditions of (1) predetermined point in time and (2) elapsed period of time. In light of these deficiencies of

Arledge, Mori, Reifman and Taniguchi, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 22 are directed to a method and a computer readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 22 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 16 and 21.

Claim 16 is directed to a data processing method for providing a print service using an information processing apparatus for storing print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data, and a printer. The method comprises a transmission of authentication information input by a user to print the print data from the printer to the information processing apparatus; authenticating a user based on the transmitted authentication information at the information processing apparatus; transmitting the print data corresponding to the input authentication information from the information processing apparatus to the printer; enabling the printer to print, based on user instruction, the transmitted print data if the user is authenticated; and deleting the print data from said storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being set independently from the specific period of time.

Applicant submits that the discussion from above in regard to Claims 1, 11 and 22 applies as well to Claim 16. Namely, the cited references of Arledge, Mori, Reifman and Taniguchi, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the

features of Claim 16. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest that print data is not deleted if it does not satisfy both user-specified conditions of (1) predetermined point in time and (2) elapsed period of time. In light of these deficiencies of Arledge, Mori, Reifman and Taniguchi, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 16 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 21 is directed to a computer readable storage medium, an apparatus and a method, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 21 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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